GRAND PRIX OF MIAMI NOTEBOOK

Defending tobacco sponsors

CART president: Outsiders shouldn't meddle

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CART president Andrew Craig addressed drivers and journalists at the race-opening press luncheon. He presented Miami Motorsports President Raton Sanchez with an $834,800 check for the rental of the Homestead Complex from November to January.

Backing the right for tobacco companies to advertise at and sponsor auto racing, Craig acknowledged Marlboro as an integral in the presentation of the Grand Prix. "Marlboro is under threat from people [who are] without a grasp of what this sponsorship means to the racing and what it means to the community," Craig said.

"This is a free market that doesn't need anyone to come in from the outside and meddle. We can't assume that another sponsor will come right in."

This weekend's race is predicted to contribute $21 million to beleaguered South Florida economy.

Another Top 10

David Letterman, a new minority owner in Team Rahal, issued his "Top Ten Perks of Being a Member of Team Rahal."

"From the home office in Columbus, Ohio:

Letterman

10. Speeding tickets no longer a problem thanks to special Merritt Parkway 'testing permit.'

9. If my car breaks down anywhere in the country, **Bobby [Rahal]** will personally come and tow it.

8. Empty methanol drums make great pool toys.

7. Now when I need a pit pass, only have to suck up to myself.

6. For a change, get to be a part of a team that's not in last place.

5. Thanks to **Tony George**, Indy 500 race day traffic jams no longer a problem.

4. Chance to have photo taken with Indy Car hunk **Paul Page.**

3. After each race, I get to check Bobby's helmet for hair.

2. If Bobby wraps up championship early in season, I get Herta's ride.

1. Finally, someone I can talk to about my half-shaft problems."

On a recent episode of *The Late Show*, Letterman said he would be attending the Homestead race. If he makes the trip, he'll be among the 65,000 spectators.

Racing to the Web

Information about the Homestead track is available on the Internet at **http://www.racemiami-.com.**

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Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/psyn0004